Prohibition of Alcohol

In The Light of The Holy Qur'an



Hazrat Aqdas Maulana **Shah Abdul Ghani Saheb**
Phulpuri (Rahmatullah Alaihi)

Compiled By

Shaikh-ul-Arab Wal Ajam Arifbillah Hazrat Aqdas Maulana
Shah Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar Saheb
(Damat Barakaatuhum)
(Special Attendant of Hazrat Phulpuri (R.A.)

Khanqah Imdadiyyah Ashrafiyyah
Gulshan Iqbal, Block 2, Karachi-Pakistan.
www.khanqah.org

PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL

(In The Light of The Holy Qur'an)

Hazrat Aqdas Maulana Shah Abdul Ghani Saheb Phulpuri (Rahmatullah Alaihi)

Compiled By
Shaikh-ul-Arab Wal Ajam Arifbillah Hazrat Aqdas Maulana Shah Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar Saheb
(Damat Barakaatuhum)
Special Attendant of Hazrat Phulpuri (Rahmatullah Alaihi)

Translated by:
Maulana Tameem Ahmad

Published by:

Khanqah Imdadiyah Ashrafiyah
Gulshan Iqbal Block 2
Karachi
www.khanqah.org

PREFACE

This humble compiler states that about two years ago, an officer attended the gathering of Hazrat Shah Abdul Ghani Phulpuri and he asked him, “Some officers ask me about alcohol claiming that the word ***Haraam*** (prohibited) regarding alcohol is not present in the Qur’an then why do the *Ulama* (scholars) declare it so?” As an answer to that question, Hazrat delivered a detailed lecture, which presented clear evidence from the Qur’an regarding the prohibition of alcohol. Hazrat asked me that this speech should be transcribed and published so that our uninformed Muslim brothers who have this misconception could be made aware as this speech was a blessing from Allah Ta`ala.

Therefore, in fulfilment of Hazrat’s request, this draft was prepared and the officer who promised the printing and publishing of draft kept it by him for approximately two years. Yet, due to some circumstances, the officer was unable to print and publish it. Nevertheless, some of my sincere friends during this period continuously drew my attention towards the publishing of this topic but, due to certain constraints, I was not able to start on this task. However, when the appointed time from Allah Ta`ala comes for the completion of any task then unforeseen ways and means develop on their own.

Yesterday, on the 26th of Ramadhan al-Mubarak 1382 AH, I was passing Bruns Road, Karachi, accompanied by a friend who mentioned that some of his acquaintances were discussing that alcohol has not been declared *Haraam* (prohibited) anywhere in the Qur’an. Listening to this conversation wounded my heart and made me feel extremely regretful for my procrastination. With a wounded heart and a strong yearning, this humble compiler went to Hazrat Phulpuri and told him about what took place today, which had a major impact on me and caused much restlessness along with a strong desire that I should spread this topic regarding alcohol in the country as soon as possible. It is hoped that those uninformed Muslims who are under this misconception could be warned so that they may be granted the ability to repent from the consumption of alcohol or at least have the correct knowledge so they realize that alcohol is *Haraam* (prohibited) if they choose to consume it. The benefit of this would be that their beliefs would at least

be correct and the correctness of belief would eventually lead to the hope of forgiveness after suffering the consequence of their sins in the hereafter.

The object of this lecture is not to make the consumption of alcohol continue intrepidly but the object is to save these ignorant Muslims, who consider ***Haraam*** (prohibited) as ***Halaal*** (lawful), from disbelief. It is a unanimous ruling in the Islamic Creed that to commit a prohibited act knowing clearly about its prohibition is a grave sin and it is strictly prohibited but to commit a prohibited act while considering it lawful is an act of Kufr (disbelief) because such a person is deliberately tampering with the Divine Law.

Hazrat Phulpuri (Rahmatullah Alaihi) then stated that it seemed that this is the time of publishing this pamphlet because when Allah Ta'ala, the Most Exalted, wills then such unforeseen events take place. Hazrat also commanded that these events which became the reason and grounds for the publishing of this pamphlet should also be written so that Allah Ta`ala may grant the entire benefit from this pamphlet.

Humble Compiler
Muhammad Akhtar (*May Allah pardon his sins)*
Friday, 28th Ramadhanul Mubarak 1382 AH

PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL

نَحْمَدُهٗ وَنُصَلِّیْ عَلٰی رَسُوْلِہِ الْکَرِیْمِ اَمَّا بَعْدُ

فَاَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰہِ مِنَ الشَّیْطٰنِ الرَّجِیْمِ بِسْمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

یَسْئَلُوْنَکَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَیْسِرِ ط قُلْ فِیْهِمَآ اِثْمٌ کَبِیْرٌ وَّمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَاِثْمُهُمَآ

اَکْبَرُ مِنْ نَّفْعِهِمَا ط {سورۃ البقرۃ آیت ۲۱۹}

"They ask you about wine and gambling. Say, in both there is great sin, and some benefits for people. And their sin is greater than their benefit."
(Baqarah 2:219)

In this verse, Allah Ta`ala informs His bondsmen that alcohol has more harm to it than benefit because the benefits are temporary but there is no limit to the harms. Because when the intellect starts to decline then so does the glory of human nature and it is due to the intellect of humans that they are called *Ashraful-Makhluqaat* (Best of all Creations). Therefore, the consumption of alcohol is as if losing this honor and civility of humanity from your hands. This was the first verse revealed regarding alcohol. Now if a scientist claims that the benefits of alcohol are greater than the harms then we would call him ignorant and unaware of reality because evidently the knowledge of the creation cannot compete with the knowledge of the True Creator.
Allah Ta'ala states:

وَمَآ اُوْتِیْتُمْ مِّنَ الْعِلْمِ اِلَّا قَلِیْلاً

"And you are not given from the knowledge but a little."
(Al-Isra 17:85)

Oh People you are given little knowledge. Allah Exalted, regarding this knowledge claims:

أَلَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ خَلَقَ

"Does He not know what He created?"
(Mulk 67:14)

Daily observations are witness to the fact that the research that scientists are content with today is refuted after a few days because of the detections of some errors within. They would continue to publish the contradiction of their previous research. On the contrary, the knowledge of the True Creator is free from any probable error. Allah Exalted states:

وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لِسُنَّةِ اللّٰهِ تَبْدِيلًا

"And you will never find a change in Allah's consistent practice."
(Al-Ahzab 33:62)

For a *Mu'min* (believer) a mandate of the Qur'an that alcohol is *ithme kabir* (a great sin) is enough to prevent him from alcohol because every sin whether small or great is a source of Allah Ta'ala's disobedience, and disobedience is a reason for His displeasure. Then how could a *Mu'min* (believer) endure the displeasure of Allah? The quality of a perfect bondsman is:

يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللّٰهِ وَرِضْوَانًا

"Seeking grace from Allah, and (His) good pleasure"
(Al-Fath 48:29)

Allah Ta'ala states that Companions of Rasulullah (Sallellaho Alaihi Wasallam) try to find Our Pleasure and Our Grace by searching for any action that would please their True Cherisher all the time. The Qur'an, while accepting the few benefits of alcohol, also expresses its abundant harms. This is a clear evidence of the genuineness of Islam, for Islam does not deny observations because denying established observations is

futile. After the above mentioned verse, the following verses were revealed regarding alcohol:

يٰٓاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْٓا اِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْاَنْصَابُ وَالْاَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ
الشَّيْطٰنِ فَاجْتَنِبُوْهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُوْنَ ○ اِنَّمَا يُرِيْدُ الشَّيْطٰنُ اَنْ يُّوْقِعَ بَيْنَكُمُ
الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَآءَ فِى الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ وَيَصُدَّكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ وَعَنِ الصَّلٰوةِ ۚ فَهَلْ
اَنْتُمْ مُّنْتَهُوْنَ ○

Translation: *O you who believe! Wine, gambling, altars and divining arrows are filth, made up by Satan. Therefore, refrain from it, so that you may be successful. Satan wishes only to plant enmity and malice between you through wine and gambling, and to prevent you from the remembrance of Allah and from Salaah. Would you, then, abstain? (Maidah 5:90-91*)

From the above mentioned verse, the following points can be established:

1) اِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْاَنْصَابُ وَالْاَزْلَامُ

Ta'ala informs his believing bondsman that they should not adopt the customs of the disbelievers and that alcohol, gambling, idols and arrows of divination are foul things and satanic acts. Wine is mentioned along with gambling, idols and divining arrows to indicate what a foul thing it is. It is placed before the foul deeds like gambling, idols and divining arrows so it could be noted for its extreme impure nature.

O Muslims! Ponder on the fact that the consumption of alcohol is mentioned with idolatry so that hatred for this deed could be developed. This deed is closer to disbelief because alcohol prevents from *Salaah* (Prayer) which is the greatest ritual and symbol of Islam. When people are this distant from *Imaan* (belief) then eventually this will lead them closer to *Kufr* (disbelief).

2) رِجْسٌ

Allah Ta`ala declared the consumption of alcohol as *Rijs* i.e. a defiled and filthy act. Glory be to Allah! What a psychological treatment! After developing the natural aversion to alcohol (by mentioning it with gambling, idols and divining arrows), the ability has now been developed to accept and listen to the harms of alcohol. The wisdom and eloquence of Qur'an cannot be encompassed.

نہ حسنش غایتے دارد نہ سعدی را سخن پایاں
بمیرد تشنہ مستسقی و دریا ہمچناں باقی

Neither does His beauty have any limit, nor do Sa`di's words of praise come to an end,
The seeker of water dies of thirst and the river remains as is.

3) مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطٰنِ

Consumption of alcohol is a satanic act. O Muslims! Ponder on the fact that we claim to be Muslims which suggests that we believe in the Oneness of Allah Ta'ala and the Prophethood of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). If Allah Ta'ala is declaring a certain act to be satanic are we scheming to prove it *Halaal* (lawful)? Claiming to be devoted, but acting like a rebel! By informing us that the consumption of alcohol is a satanic act, Allah Ta'ala illustrates how Satan disobeyed and rebelled against Allah's Command and became the Rejected One, then in the same way alcohol has a similar quality. This is because the consumption of alcohol will develop the roots of intoxication, disobedience and rebellion inside of you, and as a result of the continuous presage of disobediences there is a chance to become the Rejected One just like the Satan.

4) فَاجْتَنِبُوْهُ

So refrain from it! O Muslims! Allah Ta'ala orders us to refrain from the consumption of alcohol and has used the imperative command from which the strict order of abstinence can be derived. Now every Muslim can reflect on the clear order to refrain, for can there be any other meaning to this? Like some ignorant Muslims believe that consuming such an amount of alcohol that intoxicates is prohibited. Where, after all, is the proof of such a thing in the Qur'an? Does anyone have the right to contest the divinely revealed verses with their own opinions?

5) لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُوْنَ

So that you may be successful. O Muslims! Allah Ta'ala proclaims that your success is only in the abstinence from alcohol so don't go near it. Today, we believe that the secret of our success and prosperity is dependent on alcohol. Muslims believe that if we adopt an Islamic code of life, we would never be able to attain success. May Allah Exalted grant divine guidance with His Mercy to all the Muslim leaders to ban alcohol completely, Ameen!

6) اِنَّمَا يُرِيْدُ الشَّيْطٰنُ اَنْ يُّوْقِعَ بَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَآءَ فِي الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ

Through alcohol, Satan develops enmity and malice amongst you. The intellectuals of the times are united on the fact that any nation without unity will not be able to attain glory and success. We all should try to look deep within ourselves and wake our dozing conscience and ponder that from which face do we claim to be the well-wishers of the nation when Qur'an declares that consumption of alcohol is a source of contention? Day and night the shout of, "unity, unity" is on our tongue but as for the barrier in our unity i.e. alcohol, we are engaged in scheming to make it lawful instead of preventing the consumption and outlets of alcohol. Oh Allah, make the truth apparent for us and save us from falsehood. Ameen!

7) وَيَصُدَّكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ وَعَنِ الصَّلٰوةِ

Satan desires to hinder you from the remembrance of Allah and *Salaah* (Prayer) through alcohol.

> O Muslims! Ponder over the message the Qur'an is conveying. Do you prefer that you are made negligent from remembrance of the True Cherisher and *Salaah* (Prayer)? No Muslim would ever be able to prefer this. Then why are we embracing the consumption of alcohol and not restricting the promotion of alcohol outlets? The reason for this is that we do not have enough of a connection with the remembrance of Allah and prayer as we should. Otherwise, why would we not abandon those things that hinder us from His remembrance and *Salaah*?

8) فَهَلْ اَنْتُمْ مُّنْتَهُوْنَ

Would you, then abstain? The Qur'an is making us feel extremely repugnant to alcohol from this topic. This topic is employed by an affectionate teacher or a father at the time when he has whole-heartedly warned about the harms of a certain foul habit. He then says, "After you have realized so many harms, would you then abstain?" Similarly, when Allah Ta`ala made His bondsmen aware about the numerous harms of alcohol such as:

a.) It is such a foul object that it is mentioned with gambling, idols and arrows of divination and holds the first rank amongst them.

b.) It is a defiled act.

c.) Its Consumption is a satanic act.

d.) It has been ordered to refrain from its consumption.

e.) You would not be able to attain success through its consumption.

f.) Through it, Satan plans to instil enmity amongst you.

g.) Satan wishes to prevent you from the remembrance of Allah Ta`ala and *Salaah* (Prayers).

After making us aware of so many evils and harms of alcohols, Allah commands: **فَهَلْ اَنْتُمْ مُنْتَهُوْنَ** “Would you, then abstain?"

Every Muslim could now ponder on the above-mentioned verses and see whether they prove alcohol as *Halaal* (lawful) or *Haraam* (prohibited)? Is one ever guided to avoid and abstain from the lawful and permitted things? Is the Qur’an, Allah forbid, a discourse of someone insane?

بریں عقل و دانش باید گریست

One should weep over this type of intellect and wisdom

In a narration of Tirmidhi, it has been mentioned when the honoured Companions (May Allah be Pleased with them all) heard, **فَهَلْ اَنْتُمْ مُنْتَهُوْنَ** “would you then abstain?” They immediately remarked, **اِنْتَهَيْنَا** “we have abstained”. It is mentioned in another narration of Bukhari that at that time (when this verse was revealed) the Companions threw away all their remaining alcohol. The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) even forbade them to drink juice in the utensils in which alcohol used to be consumed to develop in their hearts extreme hatred for alcohol.

Few ignorant people claimed that in the Noble Qur’an, the word *Haraam* (Prohibited) is not present regarding alcohol whereas the Qur’an proves about alcohol that:

1) It is impure.

2) It is a satanic act.

3) It is *Ithm e Kabir* (A grave sin).

4) Mentioned along with idolatry.

5) **فَاجْتَنِبُوْهُ** The imperative command, an order to refrain from alcohol.

Now the search for the word *Haraam* (prohibited) is purely satanic crookedness and deceit of the lower self. For a person with a sound intellect and a right mind, these topics of restriction and prohibition are sufficient.

One day, I was reciting the Qur'an when I was inspired about the proof of the prohibition of alcohol. I informed some of my acquaintances who happen to be scholars about this topic and they were very pleased. The argument was that Allah Ta'ala commands in Surah A`raaf:

قُلْ إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّيَ الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَالْإِثْمَ وَالْبَغْيَ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ

Translation: *Say, My Lord has prohibited only the shameful acts, whether open or secret, and (every) sinful act, and unjust aggression. (Aa'raf 7:33)*

It should be understood with attention that this is the first case, on the basis of the art of logic it is the minor term of a syllogism.

Now the next case which is proved by the second verse, فِيْهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيْرٌ is the second case and logically the major proposition of a syllogism. Combining both of them, we get the result that with respect to the first case that alcohol is filed under حَرَّمَ رَبِّى(My Lord had prohibited).

Understand the discussion above in an easier language that in one verse قُلْ إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّيَ الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَالْإِثْمَ وَالْبَغْيَ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ, Allah declares وَالْاِثْمَ as prohibited under حَرَّمَ رَبِّى and then in another verse proves that in the consumption of alcohol there is إِثْمٌ كَبِيْرٌ (a great sin) as in فِيْهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيْرٌ. Thus when Allah asserts that sins are prohibited then whichever object in which the presence of إِثْمٌ كَبِيْرٌ (a great sin), is stated then its prohibition can also clearly be proven to be a severe prohibition. This is such a plain argument that there is not a single ambiguity left in it. Moreover, regarding alcohol the emphasis of nunnation in إِثْمٌ كَبِيْرٌ (great sin) is the proof that the consumption of alcohol is a much severe sin than all the other great sins.

After substantiating the prohibition of alcohol (through the verses of Holy Qur'an), to make a different interpretation of the obvious meaning and to represent it falsely to please the inner self is a dangerous sin. This act of impudence and disobedience is so extreme that it is feared that it would be the cause of disbelief because it is established in Islamic Creed that rejecting the final orders is disbelief. Such meaningless type of interpretations employed here to make alcohol lawful is the same as rejecting the final orders from Allah Ta'ala. Therefore, consuming, making, aiding in the production, buying or selling alcohol is ***Haraam*** (Prohibited). May Allah keep all of us Muslims in His Protection and make the truth apparent for us. Ameen.

O Muslims! Today those people who are striving to make alcohol ***Halaal*** (lawful) should consider that the blessed Prophet of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) prophesized about this occurrence fourteen hundred years ago:

لَيَكُونَنَّ مِنْ أُمَّتِيْ أَقْوَامٌ يَسْتَحِلُّوْنَ الْحِرَّ وَالْحَرِيْرَ وَالْخَمْرَ وَالْمَعَازِفَ

Translation: *"Indeed, there will be in my Ummah such people who will regard as permissible for themselves fornication, silk, wine and musical instruments." [Bukhari]*

Therefore, it is an occasion to be fearful.

Maulana Rumi (Rahmatullah Alaihi) says:

از شراب قہر چوں مستی دہد

نیست ہارا صورت ہستی دہد

When He gives intoxication from the wine of His wrath,
Then the inexistent appear to become existent

May Allah Ta'ala protect our intelligence from the wrath in the intoxication of alcohol and grant us perfect understanding. Ameen.